

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the official action dated June 12, 2007. Claims 1-8 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-8 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 have been amended, and new claim 9 has been added. Claims 1-9 thus remain for consideration.

Applicant submits that claims 1-9 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§102 Rejections

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,776,824).

Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims (claims 1, 5, and 8) are patentable over Suzuki.

Applicant's invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward an apparatus and method for displaying an input image signal. Each of the claims recites "generating an image signal corresponding to a no-picture region of a display" and "setting a brightness level of the image signal for the no-picture region." The "no-picture region" is a region within the display which is not occupied by the input image signal. For illustrative disclosure, reference is made to application Fig. 13A and page 3, lines 18-28. In Fig. 13A, no-picture regions are denoted by reference numeral 202.

Suzuki does not disclose generating an image signal corresponding to a no-picture region of a display, let alone setting a brightness level of such an image signal. Rather, Suzuki discloses generating a dither signal corresponding to non-displayable bits of an image signal. For example, if a display has sufficient luminance resolution to display only the 8 most significant bits of a 10 bit/pixel signal, a dithering

signal is generated and added to the displayable part of the signal for purposes of "simulating" the non-displayable part. (See e.g., Suzuki column 1, lines 64-67; column 2, lines 22-53; column 4, lines 48-59; and column 8, lines 15-30.) Thus, Suzuki does not generate an image signal for pixels that fall outside the picture region, but rather, generates a dither signal for pixels that fall within the picture region.

Since Suzuki does not disclose generating an image signal corresponding to a no-picture region of a display, Applicant believes that claims 1, 5, and 8 are patentable over Suzuki on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, claims 2-4, 6, and 7 are believed to be patentable over Suzuki for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claims 1, and 5.

New Claim

New claim 9 has been added.

Claim 9 depends on claim 1. Accordingly, claim 9 is believed to be patentable over Suzuki for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Application No.: 10/822,198

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-1078

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Dated: December 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Bruno Polito

Registration No.: 38,580

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant

789872_1.DOC